



UPTON

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

Upton's beginnings are different from most other towns in the Commonwealth. Instead of being taken from one town or from common land, it was put together from the outlying areas of four towns: Sutton, Hopkinton, Mendon and Uxbridge. The first meetinghouse was built within the walls of the burying ground; this location in the south part was upsetting to the Westborough farmers who moved into the northwest section in the following decades. After many years of controversy, the original meetinghouse was dismantled, and a new one was built close to the center of what is now the town common.

For more than 100 years, many Upton farmers supplemented their incomes by making boots. By 1837, William Knowlton had established a flourishing straw hat business in the west part of Upton; hatmaking supplanted bootmaking and employed many citizens until 1969. The Knowlton factory has been converted into apartments and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Upton is a small, friendly community located in southern Worcester County, primarily residential in nature, and still retaining much of its original New England flavor. Upton's Historical Society not only preserves artifacts from the past, but works actively to inform its citizens about people and places, which makes it an attractive place to put down roots. Upton is located 35 miles west of Boston and 13 miles south of Worcester, providing its residents with the best of both worlds, ie., a quiet environment in which to reside and access to major cities within 45 minutes.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southern Massachusetts, bordered by Grafton and Northbridge on the west; Westborough on the north; Hopkinton, Milford, and Hopedale on the east; and Mendon on the southeast. Upton is 15 miles southeast of Worcester, 36 miles southwest of Boston, and 187 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 21.73 sq. miles

Land Area: 21.52 sq. miles

Population: 4,677

Density: 217 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(West Medway Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.9°F

Normal temperature in July.....70.8°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.6"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Milford, Grafton, Blackstone

Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Boston



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 529-6901

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1735

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	3,222		
Democrats	708	22.0	%
Republicans	615	19.1	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	1,899	58.9	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Upton town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	5,642	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	5,642	100.0
Male.....	2,757	48.9	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	41	0.7
Female.....	2,885	51.1	Mexican.....	3	0.1
Under 5 years.....	558	9.9	Puerto Rican.....	6	0.1
5 to 9 years.....	514	9.1	Cuban.....	5	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	382	6.8	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	27	0.5
15 to 19 years.....	274	4.9	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	5,601	99.3
20 to 24 years.....	154	2.7	White alone.....	5,478	97.1
25 to 34 years.....	663	11.8	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,309	23.2	Total population.....	5,642	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	838	14.9	In households.....	5,597	99.2
55 to 59 years.....	246	4.4	Householder.....	2,042	36.2
60 to 64 years.....	169	3.0	Spouse.....	1,386	24.6
65 to 74 years.....	275	4.9	Child.....	1,870	33.1
75 to 84 years.....	190	3.4	Own child under 18 years.....	1,599	28.3
85 years and over.....	70	1.2	Other relatives.....	129	2.3
Median age (years).....	37.0	(X)	Under 18 years.....	23	0.4
18 years and over.....	4,001	70.9	Nonrelatives.....	170	3.0
Male.....	1,925	34.1	Unmarried partner.....	105	1.9
Female.....	2,076	36.8	In group quarters.....	45	0.8
21 years and over.....	3,876	68.7	Institutionalized population.....	36	0.6
62 years and over.....	630	11.2	Noninstitutionalized population.....	9	0.2
65 years and over.....	535	9.5	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	211	3.7	Total households.....	2,042	100.0
Female.....	324	5.7	Family households (families).....	1,562	76.5
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	859	42.1
One race.....	5,595	99.2	Married-couple family.....	1,386	67.9
White.....	5,492	97.3	With own children under 18 years.....	759	37.2
Black or African American.....	27	0.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	136	6.7
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	4	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	77	3.8
Asian.....	55	1.0	Nonfamily households.....	480	23.5
Asian Indian.....	6	0.1	Householder living alone.....	387	19.0
Chinese.....	26	0.5	Householder 65 years and over.....	156	7.6
Filipino.....	8	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	878	43.0
Japanese.....	1	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	384	18.8
Korean.....	11	0.2	Average household size.....	2.74	(X)
Vietnamese.....	1	-	Average family size.....	3.17	(X)
Other Asian ¹	2	-	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	2,084	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	2,042	98.0
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	42	2.0
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	1	-
Some other race.....	17	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.5	(X)
Two or more races.....	47	0.8	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.8	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	2,042	100.0
White.....	5,538	98.2	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,683	82.4
Black or African American.....	31	0.5	Renter-occupied housing units.....	359	17.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	9	0.2	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.96	(X)
Asian.....	74	1.3	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.73	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	2	-			
Some other race.....	35	0.6			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 40

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 9

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Upton is located in the Blackstone River Valley, which is situated between Interstates 90, 395, and 495, and has good highway and rail access to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Worcester, Providence and Boston.

Major Highways

The principal highway in State Route 140. The Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate Route 90) passes to the north in Westborough, and Interstate Route 495, the outer belt around Boston, is easily accessible to the east at interchanges in Hopkinton and Milford.

Rail

The Grafton and Upton Railroad provides freight rail service in Upton, interchanging freight with Conrail in North Grafton. Contact number for the G & U: (508) 853-2849

Bus

Upton is not affiliated with a regional transit authority.

Other

The Worcester Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial (PR) facility with scheduled passenger service, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,500' and 6,999' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Knowlton Manor Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.